

MH 12D 11589

going home



a resource guide for people
leaving corrections facilities

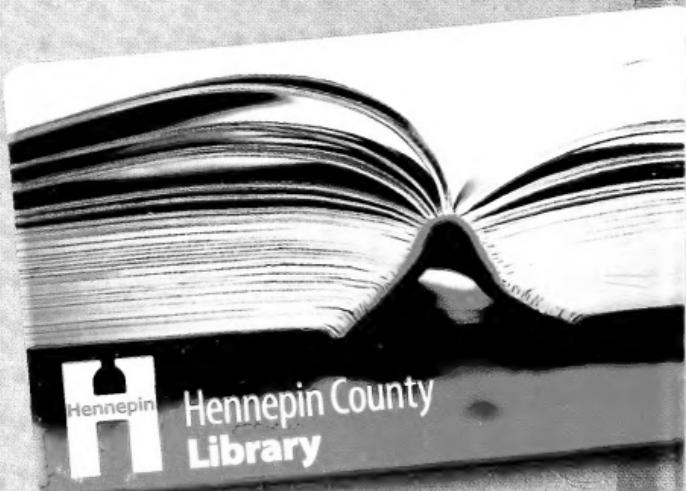


Hennepin County
Library

After leaving a corrections facility, the road back into the community is not always an easy journey. You will face many barriers, and you may feel confused or frustrated about which direction will best lead you down the right path.

Fortunately, there are many people and organizations that want to help you make positive changes in your life.

This is your guide to discover more about how Hennepin County Library and other organizations can help you find the resources you need to overcome any obstacles and successfully rejoin your community.



Please plan on visiting the library after your release. Hennepin County Library's mission is to nourish minds, transform lives and build community together. We are recognized as one of the top libraries in the United States with more than five million books, CDs, DVDs and other items in the collection and about 1750 computers. It's free, and it's waiting for you!

Libraries are everywhere. Chances are one is close by and easy to get to by bus. You may even be able to walk to your local library. In Hennepin County, there are 41 public libraries throughout Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs.

At your library, you can:

- borrow books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, newspapers and more**
- use a computer with email and Internet access**
- get help searching for a job, writing your résumé and more**
- be entertained! Bring your children and enjoy a storytime, author visit and more**
- ... all for free!**

Getting a library card is easy. If you live in Hennepin County, bring your ID with your current address to any of our libraries. If your address is different than the one on your ID, we can mail a card to you. You can even apply for a card online at www.hclib.org.

Always bring your library card to the library so you can check out materials or use a computer. Most books and CDs can be borrowed for three weeks; DVDs may be borrowed for one week. You can renew most items for more time if no one else is waiting for them.

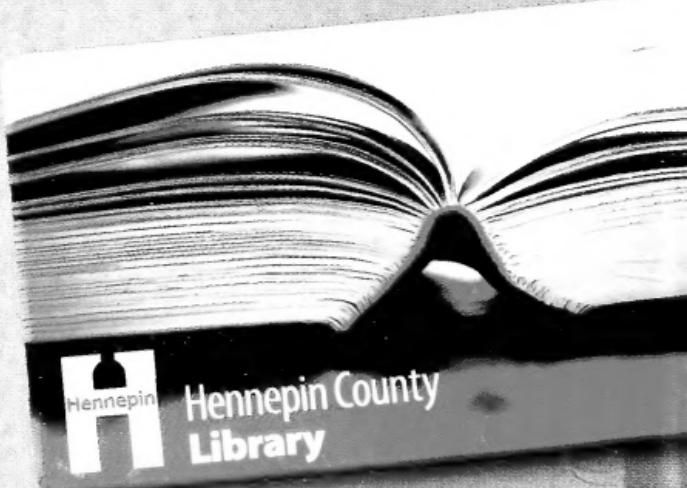
Once you have your library card, you can access resources from home through the library's website at www.hclib.org. This might be even more important to you if the conditions of your parole prevent you from visiting the library. You can ask a friend or family member to get materials for you, too. Hennepin County Library's At Home service offers a program where books can be mailed to people who are unable visit the library.

Libraries and library staff are here to help as you make positive changes to overcome any barriers you face after your release. They can help you explore the world, learn, be inspired and open the door to opportunity and success.

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- use a computer with email and Internet access
- get help searching for a job, writing your résumé, interviewing
- be entertained. Bring your children and enjoy storytimes, author visits and more... all for free!

Getting a library card is a valuable tool to overcome using your Internet skills in addition to your ability to type your address in online bank accounts or to send an email to you. You can even apply online at www.hclib.org.

Always keep in mind that the library is here to help you with material on life, education, education and the job market for the world of work and success. You can also find resources on topics such as money management, family,

child-rearing, nutrition, health care, and more. And if you're looking for more unique services, you can even make arrangements with your local library to get you in touch with your neighbors. If you're looking to settle in with people from your past, the library has people who are just right for you!

Libraries are the best places to go to learn new things, change your company or to just sit and relax. They can help you play an important role in getting you back to the community.

continuing your education

At the library you can learn what you need to at your own pace, and it's free.

At the Hennepin County Library Franklin Learning Center, adults prepare for the GED and U.S. citizenship exams or study English, math, science, social studies, technology and life skills. Students work one-to-one or in small groups with instructors and tutors.

Is going back to school part of your job search plan? More education and training might mean more opportunities and money, and the library has many resources to increase your knowledge, get information about schools, prepare for tests such as the ACT or SAT, or even your CDL, learn about trades and apprenticeship programs, and apply for financial aid.

Your library card is your ticket to free computer use, complete with Internet. Don't know your way around a computer? Sign up for free classes or ask staff at our libraries, especially those with computer labs or technology centers, to show you how to use a computer, set up an email account, or search the Internet for a job.

MORE RESOURCES

Minnesota Literacy Council
1.800.222.1990
www.themlc.org

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System (MNSCU)
1.888.667.2848
www.mnscu.edu

finding a job

Looking for a job can be hard for someone with a criminal record, but finding a job is the most important part of a successful reentry into your community. Steady employment provides income, a sense of pride and a chance to prove you can take care of yourself.

Your library can be a great resource. Come to one of our Jobs and Small Business Centers to look for a job, write a résumé, learn interview strategies and more. Staff and community partners, such as WorkForce Centers, will help you get what you need.

In addition to using the library's computers to apply for jobs online, our staff can help you reformat your résumé or set up an email account.

There's also a program just for you. The World of Work program at North Regional Library is free to men and women with criminal backgrounds who need assistance finding a job, writing a résumé, disclosing a criminal record, and interviewing. You can also find job leads to companies with a history of hiring people with criminal records.

The library can also help if you're interested in self-employment and starting a small business. Our Jobs and Small Business Centers can help you explore different types of business opportunities, create a business plan, reach your target market and promote your business.

Once you have found employment, the library also has personal finance resources, credit repair information and tax forms.

MORE RESOURCES

ISEEK
1.800.657.8372
www.iseek.org

Minnesota WorkForce Centers
1.888.438.5627
www.mnsetwows.net

putting a roof over your head

From coping with homelessness to buying a house, library staff can help you find the housing resources you need. The library also has information about rental issues, buying and selling a home, or dealing with foreclosure.

Also, no matter where you live, the library offers a quiet space where you can read a book, work on a job application, or use the Internet.

MORE RESOURCES

Metro Shelter Network
1.888.234.1329

strengthening relationships

The library is fun and free, so it's a great destination for families. You'll find something of interest for everyone in your family, such as books, movies and music. There are also storytimes for children, Homework Help for students and reading events for teens.

The library also has other resources that might be helpful as you reenter your family and adjust to interacting with friends, neighbors, and relatives. Improve your communication skills, increase your knowledge of parenting, or learn more about relationships from dating experts.

taking care of yourself

Reentering your community after being incarcerated isn't easy, so taking care of yourself is essential.

Whether you need to learn more about coping with substance abuse issues or getting back in shape, the library has a wide variety of books and DVDs on health-related topics.

Attitude is everything, and the library has resources that can help you learn more about stress and anger management, depression and other mental health issues.

The library also has an Adaptive Technology Center and books-by-mail program that offer resources specifically for people with disabilities.

MORE RESOURCES

Alcoholics Anonymous
1.822.922.0850
www.aa.org

Medline Plus
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus

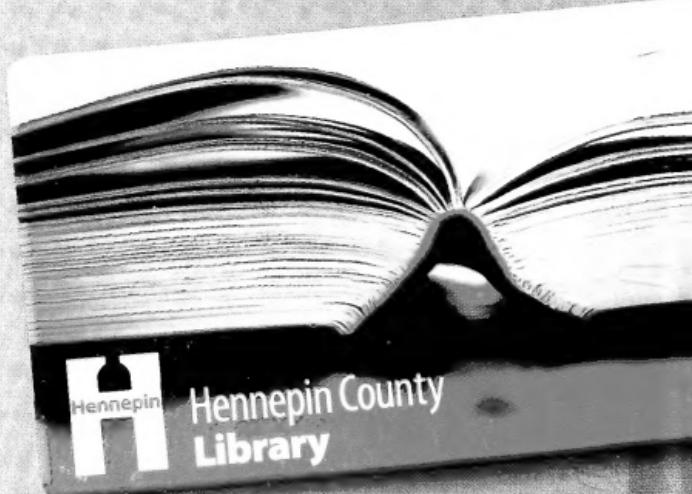
MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving)
1.800.522.3333
www.madd.org

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
1.800.727.8520
www.niaaa.nih.gov

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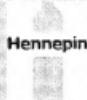
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**Office of Minority Health Resource Center
Knowledge Center
1101 Wootton Parkway
Rockville, MD 20852
1-800-444-6472**



The Institute of Museum and Library Services
leads the nation in the best education, leadership and a lifetime of learning,
and in the development of a strong, well-educated citizenry. In partnership with State Library Services,
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which administers Federal LSTA grants.
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